

REMARKS

The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to address the 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the guard is disposed in front of the cutting edges of the blades; see Figs. 1-4 and the corresponding discussion in the specification for support. The guard includes the lubricating element and the backstop.

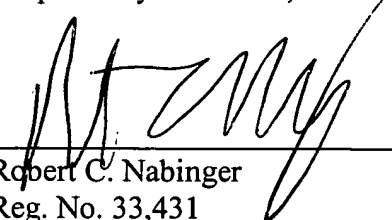
The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Ortiz, U.S. Pat. 5,689,883 ("Ortiz") and Ferraro, U.S. Pat. 4,697,342 ("Ferraro"). The Examiner says that razor units described by Ortiz and Ferraro include all of the features required by claim 1. However, the lubricating element and what the Examiner says is a backstop in the razor units described by Ortiz and Ferraro are not disposed in front of the cutting edges of the blades, but rather are disposed behind the cutting edges. Thus, the razor units disclosed by Ortiz and Ferraro do not include every feature of claim 1 and as a result do not anticipate claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable over Ortiz and Ferraro for at least this reason.

Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and such action is requested.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,



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